Lives so in hope, as in an early spring
We see the appearing buds ; which, to prove fruit,
Hope gives not so much warrant, as despair,

that are too forward. I know not what to propose, and am afraid that something is omitted, and that the injury is irremediable. Yet, perhaps, the alteration requisite is no more than this :

" Yes, *in* this present quality of war,
" Indeed 0/mstant action."

" It never, (says Hastings,) did harm to lay down likelihoods
of hope." "Yes, (says Bardolph,) *it has done harm* in this present quality of war, *in a state of things such as is now before us, of* war, indeed of instant action." This is obscure, but Mr. Pope's reading is still less reasonable. JOHNSON.

I have adopted Dr. Johnson's emendation, though I think we might read:

"------ if this present quality of war
" *Impel the* instant action."

Hastings says, it never yet did hurt to lay down likelihoods
and forms of hope. Yes, says Bardolph, it has in every case like ours, where an army inferior in number, and waiting for supplies,-
has, without that reinforcement, *impelled*, or hastily brought on, an immediate action. STEEVENS.

If we may be allowed to read—instanced, the text may mean—
Yes, it has done harm in every case like ours ; indeed, it" did harm
in young Hotspur's case at Shrewsbury, which the Archbishop of
York has just *instanced* or given as an example. TOLLET.

This passage is allowed on all hands to be corrupt, but a slight
alteration will, I apprehend, restore the true reading :

" Yes, if this present quality of war,
" *Indue'd* the instant action." HENLEY.

Mr. M. Mason has proposed the same reading. STEEVENS.

" —in this present quality of war;" This and the following
nineteen lines appeared first in the folio. That copy reads :

** Yes, *if this* present," &c.

I believe the old reading is the true one, and that aline is lost :
but have adopted Dr. Johnson's emendation, because it makes
sense. The punctuation now introduced appears to me preferable
to that of the old edition, in which there is a colon after the word
action.

Bardolph, I think, means to say, " Indeed the *present* action
(our cause being now on foot, war being actually levied,) lives so

in hope," &c. otherwise the speaker is made to say, in general, that *all* causes once on foot afford no hopes that may securely be relied on ; which is certainly not true. MALONE.